सभी आयातों पर सरकार द्वारा 1800 रु० प्रति टन की दर से अनंतिम रूप से एंटी-डंपिंग शुल्क लगाया गया है।

Corruption in STC

4296. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI is looking into allegations of corruption in urea and edible-oil import deals undertaken by STC;

(b) if so, the names of senior officials of STC under CBI and vigilance inquiries in these deals;

(c) whether it is a fact that one such senior official of STC is being considered for higher appointment in STC; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government to ensure that such officials are not posted on such high posts?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) In 1996, based on a complaint alleging irregularities in the import of edible oil by senior officials of STC and undue favour shown to a private company in the imports, CBI is investigating the matter. Further action in the matter will be taken after the availability of the CBI's findings.

In 1997, STC's role in urea deal was scrutinized by CBI who after discreet verification have closed the case.

No official found guilty has been posted to senior position in STC.

Patent Right of Basmati Rice with W.T.O.

4297. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether patent for Basmati rice have been granted by the US authorities;

(b) if so, whether the issue is being taken up by Government with W.T.O.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) A patent under the title "Basmati Lines and grains" has been granted to Rice Tec. Inc. Alvin Texas on 2.9.97 by the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, The United States of America.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Patents are granted by respective Governments under their Patents laws. Whenever information in received about patents being taken on certain products which are of commercial interest to India and which in our views do not satisfy the criteria of patentability, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of can be challenged. After sufficient material is gathered, steps are taken for filing a petition for re-examination and ultimate revocation of patent in that country.

Dumping of Waste Material

4298. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while import tariffs have declined from 87% in 1990-91 to 20.3% in 1997-98 and there has been large-scale dumping by way of import of waste and unwanted material over these years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent such dumping?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The general peak rate of import duty was more than 300% in 1990 whereas the same have been brought down to 40% in 1997. The mechanism of Safeguard and Anti Dumping are available to the affected industries under the current policy to prevent dumping.

Merger of MITCO with MMTC

4299. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MITCO has been merged in MMTC with all its workers and staff;

(b) the number of workers of MITCO at the time of merger;

(c) the status of MITCO workers and staff in MMTC; and

(d) whether they are getting same scale of pay, the facts in details?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The merger scheme was sanctioned by BIFR on 8.4.96. The strength of the workers on that date was 189.

(c) and (d) The Scheme sanctioned by BIFR envisaged that the terms and conditions of service applicable to erstwhile MITCO employees on the effective date are in no way less favourable to them than those applicable to them immediately before the transfer date. The workers and staff of MITCO are now with MMTC employed on the terms and conditions applicable as in MITCO prior to the date of merger i.e., 10.6.96.

Agreements Signed under W.T.O.

4300. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agreements signed so far under the W.T.O.;

(b) whether Government have reviewed these agreements and their long term impact on India's trade and domestic economy; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The multilateral trade agreements and associated legal instruments included in the WTO are as follows:—

1. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994.
2. Agreement on Agriculture
3. Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures
4. Agreement of Textiles and Clothing
5. Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
6. Agreement on Trade Related Investment Measures
7. Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994
8. Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994
9. Agreement on Pre-shipment Inspection
10. Agreement on Rules of Origin
11. Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures
12. Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures
13. Agreement on Safeguards
14. General Agreement on Trade in Services
15. Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
16. Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes
17. Trade Policy Review Mechanism.

(b) The review of these agreements is an on-going proccess. Their long term impact on India's trade and domesticc economy is also constantly monitored not only through extensive inter-Ministerial consultations but also through regular interface with trade and industry associations and research institutions in the light of the experience gained in the implementation of these agreements.

(c) Does not arise.

निर्यात प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्र के कार्यकरण में अनियमितताएं

4301. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत के नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक ने निर्यात प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्रों के कार्यकरण में अनेक अनियमितताओं की ओर इशारा किया है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि सरकार ने 2300 ऐसी इकाइयों की स्थापना करने का निर्णय किया था और अब तक मात्र 500 सक्रिय इकाइयां स्थापित हो सकी हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इन इकाइयों में चल रही अनियमितताओं को दूर करने तथा नई इकाइयां स्थापित करने हेतु क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री रामकृष्ण हेगड़े): (क) से (ग) निर्यात प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्रों की इकाइयां इन इकाइयों को प्रदत्त अनुमोदन/अनुमति पत्र के मापदण्डों के अन्तर्गत और एक्जिम नीति और क्रियाविधियों के अनुसार कार्य कर रही हैं। अनुमोदन पत्र के कार्यान्वयन का उत्तरदायित्व निजी उद्यमियों का है। भारत के नियंत्रक और महालेखापरीक्षक की रिपोर्ट में जो उदाहरण दिए गए हैं, वे ईपीजेड स्कीम के नीति/क्रियाविधि संबंधी पहलुओं की व्याख्या में अन्तर के कारण हैं जिसके संबंध में लेखा-परीक्षा को सही स्थिति स्पष्ट कर दी गई थी।